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Document 1:

Before the Neolithic Revolution

...Man survived the fierce test of the Ice Ages because he had the flexibility of mind to recognize inventions and to turn them into community property. Evidently the Ice Ages worked a profound change in the way man could live. They forced him to depend less on plants and more on animals. The rigors of hunting on the edge of the ice also changed the strategy of hunting. It became less attractive to stalk single animals, however large. The better alternative was to follow herds and not to lose them —to learn to anticipate and in the end to adopt their habits, including their wandering migrations. This is a peculiar adaptation—the trans-humance (nomadic) mode of life on the move. It has some of the earlier qualities of hunting, because it is a pursuit; the place and the pace are set by the food animal. And it has some of the later qualities of herding, because the animal is tended and, as it were, stored as a mobile reservoir of food...

Source: Jacob Bronowski, *The Ascent of Man*, Little, Brown and Company

1. Explain the historical circumstances surrounding the changes in hunting strategies during this time:

2. Is this a primary or secondary source? How do you know?

3. Based on this document, identify two characteristics of life before the Neolithic Revolution:
1. Is this a primary or secondary source?

2. Based on this comic, state two effects of the Neolithic Revolution:
4. Historical Context: When and where was this written? Who wrote it? (2 points)

5. Is this a primary source or a secondary source? How do you know? (2 points)

6. Based on this time line, identify two ways that people’s lives changed during the Neolithic Revolution. (2 points)

Document 4

...The Neolithic Revolution also changed the way people lived. In place of scattered hunting communities, the farmers lived in villages. Near groups of villages, small towns grew up, and later cities too. Thus the Neolithic Revolution made civilization itself possible. (The Ancient Near East)

Within the villages, towns and cities, it was possible for people to specialize in the sort of work they could do best. Many stopped producing food at all, making instead tools and other goods that farmers needed, and for which they gave them food in exchange. This process of exchange led to trade and traders, and the growth of trade made it possible for people to specialize even more. ...


7. Historical Context: When and where was this written? Who wrote it? (2 points)

8. Is this a primary source or a secondary source? How do you know? (2 points)

9. Based on this document, state one impact of the Neolithic Revolution on the way people lived. (1 point)
My name is Ogg, and I am a hunter. I usually walk a great distance each day to find my food.

I continue to hunt for a living, even though many of my friends have given up. They have learned to plant crops and keep animals. They live in houses made of brick, stone, and grass.

One day, while returning from the hunt, I happened to pass the field of my friends Ulana and Lute.

"Look how well we live," Ulana replied. "We have a steady supply of meat, milk, vegetables, and wool. In fact, we have everything we need."

"We are not afraid, nor are we hungry. We all work together and help one another. Some till the soil. Others care for the animals. Still others make weapons and tools. We trade goods with people in other villages. You should give up the hunt and join us, Ogg. You will have a better life."

I left Ulana and continued to hunt for my food. But last week I returned from the hunt empty-handed every day. I was cold, tired, and hungry.

Source: Henry Abraham and Irwin Pfeffer, *Enjoying Global History, AMSCO*

Identify one way that progress during the Neolithic Revolution helped Ulana and her friends. [1]

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Document 6

Then, about 6000 B.C., and somewhere in the Near East (as far as we know), the Neolithic way of life began. It is still called "Neolithic" (New Stone Age, as Mesolithic means Middle, and Paleolithic means Old Stone Age), because the older anthropologists saw everything in the light of stonework, and thought of this "period" as the age of polished stone axes. But it means, rather, a state of culture in which food is planted and bred, not hunted and gathered — in which food is domesticated, not wild. If we had to choose the greatest single change in human history right up to the present, this would be it. I mean, of course, a change by cultural evolution, as distinct from a biological change like standing erect, or gradually becoming able to use culture and language in the first place. And I do not mean that the change was sudden, or dramatic to those who were changing, as though a light were being switched on. It was dramatic, but long after, in its consequences, because everything else we have achieved flowed out of this as a beginning.


Based on this document, identify one important result of the Neolithic Revolution. [1]